

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of customizing a discrete storable unit of information comprising the following steps:

defining a discrete storable unit of information having a type structure and a first identifier;

defining an extension type representative of a desired additional data structure; and attaching an ~~the~~ extension to the type structure of the discrete storable unit of information by defining an extension instance of the extension type, the extension instance being identified by the first identifier and an extension identifier and stored and accessible separately from the discrete storable unit of information; and,

creating a customized discrete storable unit of information.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said extension cannot exist independently from said type structure of said customized discrete storable unit of information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the following steps:

defining a plurality of extensions, wherein each extension is representative of a desired additional data structure; and,

attaching the extensions to the type structure of the discrete storable unit of information.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said plurality of extensions are used to model overlapping type instances.

6-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A hardware/software interface system for manipulating a plurality of discrete storable units of information, said system comprising a subsystem for:

defining discrete storable units of information having a type structure and respective first identifiers;

defining at least one extension type ~~extensions~~ representative of a desired additional data ~~structure~~ structures;

attaching at least one extension ~~the extensions~~ to the type structure of the discrete storable units of information by defining at least one extension instance of the at least one extension type, the at least one extension instance being identified by a respective first identifier of a discrete storable unit of information to which the at least one extension instance is attached and a respective extension identifier, the at least one extension instance being stored and accessible separately from the discrete storable units of information; and, creating customized discrete storable units of information.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the at least one extension ~~said extensions~~ cannot exist independently from said type structure of the customized discrete storable units of information to which the at least one extension is attached.

21. (Previously Presented) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, said system further comprising a subsystem for:

defining a plurality of extensions, wherein each extension is representative of a desired additional data structure; and,

attaching the extensions to the type structure of the discrete storable units of information.

22-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-readable instructions for:

defining a discrete storable unit of information having a type structure and a first identifier;

defining at least a first ~~an~~ extension type and a second extension type, the first extension type representative of a first desired additional data structure required by a first application and the second extension type representative of a second desired additional data structure required by a second application;

attaching extensions ~~the extension~~ to the type structure of the discrete storable unit of information by defining a first extension instance of the first extension type, the first extension instance being identified by the first identifier and a first extension identifier and the second extension instance being identified by the first identifier and a second extension identifier, the first extension instance and the second extension instance being stored and accessible separately from the discrete storable unit of information; and,

creating a customized discrete storable unit of information.

39-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the discrete storable unit of information is an Item.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the discrete storable unit of information is a Nested Element.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the extension represents a specified property.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the extension represents a specified relationship.

47. (Previously Presented) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the discrete storable units of information are Items.

48. (Previously Presented) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the discrete storable units of information are Nested Elements.

49. (Previously Presented) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the extensions represent a specified property.

50. (Previously Presented) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the extensions represent a specified relationship.